

## THE DAILY MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1918.

## THE COAL SITUATION.

Prior to the war, coal production usually exceeded consumption. Consequently, considerable reserves were built up at strategic shipping points to meet local, current demands. But the more or less acute fuel situation of the past two winters has witnessed the consumption of these reserves. No one speaks of building them up again until the war is over, when transportation, industrial and labor conditions will have returned to normal. All that the fuel authorities expect of the mines is to produce a year's supply in twelve months. It therefore follows that all orders for even 70 per cent. of each consumer's annual supply cannot be filled at once so early in the season. Early orders will naturally receive precedence, however, as well as tending to prevent congestion in transportation.

During the spring the output of the mines in the United States was not re-assuring. This has been steadily improving, however, and there is reasonable ground for hoping that the supply for household purposes at any rate, may be sufficient for the demand. Of course in war time things may happen over which even governments have no complete control, which may cause at least partial falling off in production or difficulties in getting coal distributed.

Prices, too, may be reasonably expected to be still higher than in recent years. For these reasons, therefore, if for no other, consumers should obtain substitutes, such as soft coal and wood, to as great an extent as possible. At the same time, efforts should be made to cut down actual requirements of fuel to a minimum.

The evidence brought out at the Currie enquiry at Campbellton yesterday shows that Murchie, the star witness, was on the make all the way through. One lumber operator who was favored swore that he had tipped Murchie off to the extent of \$100 and had charged it up to beef account. Another witness quoted Murchie as saying that he was out to make \$500, as it was his last year on the job. The enquiry seems to have served a good purpose in exposing the crooked methods in regard to stumpage collected which prevailed under the old government.

Rochester Times-Union: The discovery that several New York manufacturers have been selling the army rotten raincoats arouses all the greater indignation because their conduct is in such glaring contrast with that of the big majority of firms with which the government is dealing. Any fine imposed would be too light for a crook caught furnishing rotten food or clothing to the army. Almost any terms of imprisonment would be too easy. And there is only one fit punishment—the firing squad.

King George has sent a telegram to President Poincare of France saying that he has followed with the closest interest and admiration the splendid counter attacks of General Foch, which are forcing the Germans to abandon a series of strong positions, and to recross the Vesle river. In his message King George warmly congratulates President Poincare and the French army on the skill of the French commander, which has resulted in such a splendid feat of arms.

While hay seems to be an excellent crop in New Brunswick this season, the problem of getting it harvested is proving a serious one for the farmer. Labor is very scarce and in some districts cannot be procured at all. Men are asking four dollars per day and board for work in the hay fields, which is looked upon as a very high wage. Unless a solution can be found for the labor problem a lot of hay will be left standing in some localities.

"There should be a law passed," says an exchange, "making graft treason in war time. Anyone who conspires to unload defective clothing or

EVIDENCE IS COMPLETED  
IN THE CURRIE ENQUIRY

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for his report to the government.

Mr. Baxter objected to the evidence but the objection was not sustained.

The witness continued, saying that Murchie asked him to look over the figures. The witness told him some of the operations were too large and Murchie agreed to reduce them and did so.

Q.—For a monetary consideration?

A.—In a way. I told him I would do something for him. When he returned the estimate, I called in the bookkeeper and had a check made out for \$100 for Mr. Murchie.

Q.—For reducing the stumpage?

A.—Yes.

## Entered as Beef

Arthur Barbour, secretary of the Prescott Company, gave evidence in support of Mr. Myles' statement regarding the payment. The witness on Mr. Myles' instructions, had made out the check for Murchie, signed it and given it to Mr. Myles. He testified when the \$100 was charged up to Murchie's account Murchie was credited with \$100 worth of beef. This was to cover up the payment.

To Mr. Copp the witness said that from 1909 until W. H. Berry retired from the government service the latter looked after the arrangements for the stumpage. Afterwards they dealt with Murchie again. When the company was sold to the Culligans, the lumber was sold on the basis of the mill scale, but stumpage was paid on Murchie's scale.

Mr. Baxter objected, but questions to show the loss to the provinces through Murchie were allowed.

In the winter of 1916-17, the witness said, their cut was 3,546,000 feet and Murchie's returns totaled 2,999,000 feet. No payment was made to Murchie in that year and no attempt was made to influence him. To the chairman the witness said that in 1916-17 they paid stumpage on half a million feet less than their cut but the cut included refuse and ends. After they made the payment to Murchie in 1909 Mr. Berry the chief scaler, took the matter out of Murchie's hands and they settled with him.

## Mr. Currie Recalled

Hon. Mr. Currie recalled, testified that he owned no stock in the Richards Lumber Company. To Mr. Baxter he said the capital stock of the Continental Lumber Company was \$100,000, all issued. He held \$12,000 and the balance was held by the Richards Lumber Co.

Q.—Has the Continental Company

supplies on the army or navy in time of war, should be stood up against a wall and shot. There is no reason why a generous people should have their taxed money stolen. There is every reason why everything supplied the soldiers for their health, comfort and safety, should be free from defect."

Speaking in the British House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil stated that the Germans had levied war contributions of 2,330,000,000 francs upon Belgium, besides enormous fines placed upon localities, firms and individuals. These monstrous exactions, he said, must certainly be taken into account when peace terms were being arranged.

## Sale Was Not Held

On account of the applicants not being ready to proceed with the sale of angling rights on various streams on Crown Lands the sale did not take place at the Crown Land office today. The rights were offered but no bids were made.

## He Knew St. John

St. John Globe.—That one of the German submarine crew which looted and burned the schooner Dornfontein told him that he had boarded at the Canadian Pacific House, North Street, and had worked for a time at the Courtenay Bay works is the statement of one of the Dornfontein's crew made to a young lady in the boarding house, according to Mr. Walter Gaynor, son of the proprietress. The Hun is described as a young man, stout and wearing a yellow moustache.

Be Saving  
Of SugarNo sugar is  
required with the  
delicious food

Grape-Nuts

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yet paid stumpage on the lumber cut on the Richards Lumber?

A.—We paid on the Murchie scale. Chairman.—We threshed that out in Fredericton. The Richards cut appeared in the scale as the Henry Giroux cut.

Mr. Baxter.—The Continental Company has not yet made restitution?

A.—We are waiting for the general restitution.

## Arthur Culligan on Stand

Arthur Culligan, of J. & A. Culligan lumber operators and mill owners, called by Mr. Copp, told of their operations. He had no negotiations with Murchie in the spring of 1916-17 regarding his returns to the government.

Objection was taken to a question about Mr. Culligan's negotiations with another government scaler, Jos. Hachey, and the question was not pressed.

Witness said that the arrangements with Murchie were left to Mr. Barbour. Their company scaler was Charles McPhee who had worked in that capacity for six or seven years. McPhee made his returns to witness. Witness had not brought these records with him.

Mr. LeBlanc.—Why did you not bring the records?

Mr. Culligan.—I did not think that this inquiry had anything to do with us.

Q.—You think you are a better judge of that than the commissioner?

A.—I would not say that.

Witness promised to produce what records he had on hand.

Replying to objections by Mr. Baxter, Mr. LeBlanc said: "We want to show the system in vogue. If it can be shown that there was any irregularity in one case while everything else was good and fine that one case would look different. If it were the system for the lumber scaler to go to the operator before making his returns and ask how much he would soak him before sending in his report it should be shown—"

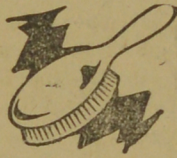
Dr. Baxter at this point drew attention to the fact that a certain amount of politics might be expected to creep in but he did not expect to find the counsel for the government in conference with and seeking guidance from the accused.

Mr. Copp denied this suggestion with vigor, saying that he had merely asked Mr. Currie about the name of a witness.

## Supporter of Murchie's

The witness, continuing, said that he had supported Murchie politically when he was running for election as

Continued on Page Six

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HAIR BRUSH  
OF "CLASS"

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The bristles cannot fall out. Many sizes for youngsters and grown-ups.

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PHARMACY

ALONZO STAPLES, Prop.  
Agency for Miller Standard  
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## PERSONAL.

Mr. H. K. Bowes of Ottawa is at the Queen.

Hon. Robert Murray of Chatham is in the city.

Mr. J. S. Leighton of Woodstock arrived in the city this morning.

Hon. E. A. Smith of Shediac is at the Queen.

Mr. John Humble of Moncton, C. G. R. Claims Agent is at the Barker House.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Ellsworth of Boston are at the Barker House.

Miss Miriam Colter of Fredericton, N. B., and Miss Jennie Colter of the teaching staff, Vancouver, have returned to Fredericton after spending the last two weeks with Miss Annie Hipwell, King Street east St. John.

St. John Globe.—Mrs. Wm. Sproule, of Hartford, Conn., and Mrs. Thos. Merryweather, of Fredericton, are visiting their cousin, Mrs. Jas. Mulkerin, Britain street.

Mrs. A. K. Limerick, and child are spending a few weeks at Edmundston.

## Big Reduction Sale

-: OF -:

## Ladies' Summer Ready-to-Wear Goods

Including Dresses, Middies, Suits, etc.

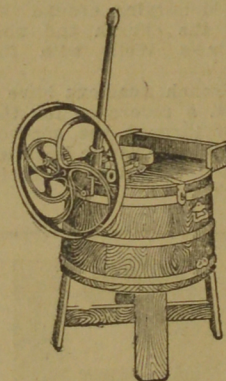
We have decided to clear these good out at Greatly Reduced Prices: Call and examine.

Sale Begins Thursday a. m. at 9.30.

## John J. Weddall &amp; Son

This store will close Thursday at 1 p. m. during July and August.

## FOR WASHING DAY



## Washing Machines &amp; Wringers

Saves clothes and does away with the heavy drudgery  
Drop in our store and look them over

## R. Chestnut &amp; Sons

PLUMBERS AND HEATERS

THE HARDWARE PEOPLE

WHOLESALE

RETAIL

Harvest Hands Wanted  
in New Brunswick.

The Department of Agriculture, for war purposes, last spring urged Greater Production. 103,772 bushels of seed grain were imported. The farmers have responded splendidly. The acreage under crop is in excess of any previous year. Climate conditions have been favorable; crops promise well.

Every acre of crop in this Province must be properly harvested this year.

Many men have been called to the colors.

Under the conditions the Department fears that many crops will remain in the fields unless men from our towns or industrial plants become harvesters, and are setting up LABOR BUREAUS in different sections of the Province to ascertain the farmers' labor needs and to register voluntary labor.

Every man in the towns or cities who has had farm experience should be ready to assist for a few days.

Every farmer should register his wants immediately at one of the following bureaus. A guarantee of help cannot be given by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, but when the requirements are known, after a certain date, if necessary, the Dominion authorities will be appealed to.

Give name, address, railway station, number of days help required, and when; approximate wages per day. Where wages cannot be satisfactorily arranged, an appeal to the Department of Agriculture may be made for adjustment.

Every man willing to help should also be registered at one of the following places:

St. John—William Kerr, N. B. Government Office, Prince William Street.

Fredericton—A. B. Wilmot, Dom. Immigration Office, Post Office Building.

Sussex—J. D. McKenna.

Moncton—J. H. King, Agricultural Representative.

Chatham—James Bremner, Jr.

Bathurst—Frank P. Doucet.

Andover and Perth—Dr. Dickenson.

Woodstock—A. C. Taylor, Agricultural School.

St. Stephen—W. S. Stevens.

J. F. TWEEDDALE, Minister of Agriculture.